

the Stranger's **NORTHWEST**

MARIJUANA GUIDE

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LEGALIZED IT!

BUT WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE? P.7

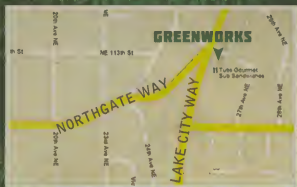
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Welcome, stoners!

You hold in your hands the worst possible material for rolling joints. We know because we once tried smoking joints rolled from this newspaper and coughed like motherfuckers—and it didn't even get us high. So don't smoke this guide. On page 17, we suggest a more ubiquitous book with superior, gossamer-thin pages for rolling papers (hint: Some of the quotes are in red letters).

In more serious, political matters, Washington State voters legalized pot last fall—which means that we on

the staff of *The Stranger* could finally smoke pot for the first time. Man, that shit is strong. Strong enough to make us enjoy a full episode of *Two and a Half Men*. Strong enough to make Phil Collins sound good. Strong enough to try rolling a joint out of a newspaper.

Anyway, this is our fifth Northwest Marijuana Guide. Please don't smoke it.

Signed,
The Pot-Smoking Hippies
at *The Stranger*



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PHOTO: JEFF APPEL

Don't Call Him the "Pot Czar"

Mark Kleiman Is Advising the State on How to Run a Legal Pot Industry

BY BEN LIVINGSTON

The Washington State Liquor Control Board took a critical step required to implement our new legalization law last month: admitting they're not pot experts. So they selected Professor Mark Kleiman, a public-policy analyst at UCLA who has focused on drug policy research for more than 25 years, to lead a team of consultants advising state officials on figuring out everything from how much pot we'll smoke to the price we'll pay for it.

The media quickly dubbed Kleiman our new "pot czar," but I want to avoid that title. He's nothing like the nation's "drug czar," a political appointee whose job is largely to oppose legalization. Kleiman's job is the dead opposite: figuring out how to make legalization work and keep

the Feds off our back. ... I called Kleiman to ask about the challenges we face. He was candid in estimating that legal pot wouldn't be available until mid-2014, even

Initiative 502 allows adults 21 and older to possess up to an ounce of marijuana, and it requires the state to license growers, distributors, and retailers. Those adults will be allowed to buy up to one ounce of ready-to-smoke marijuana from an authorized vendor, but they can't grow it at home.

though permits are supposed to be issued by this December, and he acknowledges our legalization experiment could go terribly wrong with more "heavy drinking," "a massive increase in use by minors," or "cannage on our highways."

In our interview, Kleiman also addressed his critics. Many are still annoyed that he wrote an op-ed in the *Los Angeles Times* opposing California's legalization initiative in 2010. Others dislike comments he made in January lambasting a recently convicted grower, saying, "If you're growing 2,000 plants at a time, and making money at it, you're precisely the sort of large-scale, for-profit operator [US attorney general] Eric Holder promised to go after."

But most folks, including myself, seem willing to give him the benefit of the doubt, saying that he is an intelligent researcher who ultimately favors legalized marijuana, and that a skeptical legalization consultant might be more effective at mitigating federal concerns than an in-state cannabis cheerleader.

What are you doing for the state liquor board? We're going to provide them with information. What's the current consumption level? How's that likely to change after the new regime goes into effect? Some of it is straight factual stuff, and some of it is choices they can make and the advantages of one choice versus another. My understanding is that we're not going to be making recommendations. We're going to be making factual statements—or as close as we can make them to factual.

The contract says you need to estimate the amount of pot we'll smoke. How do you plan to calculate that? The question we want to answer is how much cannabis will be

assumption of new users. You have to modify that by changes up or down by existing users. And that's recursive—that's dependent on decisions the board is making.

What is the biggest challenge?

A very early one to think about is price. What price would you like? A little bit above the illicit price or below it? A lot below it? How do we arrange for a system that, as completely as possible, displaces the illicit market in Washington?

What about the Feds?

Any advice we give the board has to take into account likely federal actions. We can document what the Feds are likely to do and how will X or Y work out. We could propose some brilliant system that falls apart with a letter from the US attorney. Anyone in this situation has to take into account the robustness of what they do in the face of possible federal actions.

What about the children?

It used to be that a quarter of the marijuana sold was consumed by people under 21. None of them can buy legally in Washington. Are they going to be provided by illicit growers, or is this going to be like alcohol? Kids are getting brand-name beer sold in grocery stores, purchased either by adults or by minors with fake IDs. What would you like? Do you really want juveniles served by strictly illicit growers? This is not an easy question.

How will our success be measured? First, does it work? Do you actually have a system as intended, where most of the pot smoked in Washington State is produced, processed, and sold by these entities licensed by the board and paying their taxes? Mechanically, did they manage to set up a system that created the availability of legal cannabis for adults?

Second, what were the outcomes? The promised outcomes of cannabis legalization are reduced criminal enterprise, reduced arrests, reduced incarceration, reduced enforcement expenditures, availability of product in safer and known forms, personal ▶



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◀ liberty gains to consumers and potential consumers. The downsides are increased drug abuse, other kinds of illicit enterprise—especially stuff going out-of-state—possibly increased availability to and use by minors, bad results in terms of traffic accidents.

What might cause you to think we failed? The board could set up the most sensible regulatory scheme possible within the constraints of the law and we could still get a bad result. What if it turns out that cannabis and alcohol are complements, that making cannabis available increases the consumption of alcohol and increases heavy drinking by adults? If that is the case, it's very hard for me to see all the other gains are worth it.

In that case, I would say we ran an experiment and we learned something important. In that case, it was a gain. Nobody really knows what the outcomes are. This is a first in the world. There's clearly a political movement to legalize cannabis, and independent of my view of whether that's a good idea or not, everybody ought to want this to be a good shot.

If Washington does this right, we'll learn something. If they do it in some sensible way and it crashes and burns—the system doesn't work at all, we get a massive increase in use by minors, carnage on our highways—then we've also learned something about the cannabis-legalization experiment that the next person might learn from. You should want Washington to do a good job at this, and you should want the Feds to back off and let it run.

Did you find your team at the liquor board bidders' conference? It's true that the drug policy side of this is the people I've worked with for years. The chemical testing and production side is mostly people that our core group didn't really know. During the bidding period, we did an enormous amount of outreach. The board made it clear in the [request for proposals] that they wanted to make one award, not four. I was pleased to discover that even as a freshly assembled team, we man-

aged to beat all the competition, according to all the reviewers.

Do you think it's wrong for adults to use marijuana? That's not a judgment I make for other people. I'm not easily able to wrap my head around the notion that drinking is good and pot smoking is bad. And I know several things about it that make it safer. I'm certainly not morally horrified by pot smoking.

Do you still think home growing is preferable to the system we're proposing, which allows people to purchase marijuana only from licensed outlets? This is complicated. I was imagining a national system that was fully legal, not a state system embedded in a national system of illegality. Colorado has home

"Nobody knows what the outcomes will be. This is a first."

grow—essentially unregulated home grow. In all the surrounding states, it's strictly illegal. If I were advising Colorado and not Washington, I would say, "What are you going to do to keep Colorado from being the new Mexico?" I still like home grow as an end solution.

What changed since you editorialized against Proposition 19, the legalization proposal in California a few years ago? That was with specific reference to California. It was clear the Feds would not stand still for what was going to happen in California. If someone had showed me the Washington initiative in 2010, I might have said otherwise. Ultimately, my views are irrelevant. Nobody asked me whether it was a good idea.

Do you think Washington's pot initiative was a good idea? Assuming that the board does a good job, and assuming that the Feds step back and let the system operate, ask me in five years and I'll know, or at least I'll have a good opinion. ■

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A Few Little Pot Districts

Where Will Pot Retail Shops Be Allowed?

BY DOMINIC HOLDEN

Check out this map. It was designed by the city's Department of Planning and Development to show where pot stores can legally open after the state issues retail licenses in December. Those itty-bitty little yellow areas are those places—and if it seems like they are few and far between, you don't know the half of it.

Most of those yellow zones are off-limits too—unless you can convince the Port of Seattle to let you open a store on top of a shipping crane or persuade Carnival Cruises to give up its waterfront slip. Then there's that yellow stretch along Aurora Avenue North, which is mostly a golf course.

Understanding why there are so few yellow patches—Seattle's future pot districts—requires a little bit of background. Initiative 502 legalized marijuana possession and required the state to issue licenses to growers, processors, and retailers. But as written, I-502 bans marijuana retail storefronts within 1,000 feet of certain properties, including parks, schools, arcades, libraries, community centers, and even public-transit centers. This is to avoid conflict with federal law (which has already cracked down on medical marijuana within these zones). The city also bans pot stores in residential neighborhoods. So this map is the result of overlaying the state's and city's restrictions.

The blue areas are places where medical marijuana businesses can open; the yellow ones are for recreational pot stores.

Making it even more restrictive, the Seattle City Council is now pondering a measure to ban pot stores in six portions of downtown, in seven historic districts in neighborhoods, and even in many areas zoned for retail. Looking at this map, the council's proposal would eliminate "four additional blocks in Ballard and about two additional blocks next to the Stadium zone," according to council president Sally Clark.

What does that leave?

The largest swath of land is the industrial flat between the stadiums and Georgetown. The problem here is that these areas are packed with warehouses, not storefronts, but you can reasonably expect

retailers who have few alternatives to pay top dollar to rent space in these industrial areas, thereby pushing out industrial tenants. Other areas include: (1) a few blocks along Aurora Avenue North, (2) three short stretches of Lake City Way, (3) a couple blocks of Northwest 85th Street in Greenwood, (4) a patch of Rainier Avenue South, and (5) a light-industrial no-man's-land between South Lake Union and Seattle Center. Then there's the one district that is both close to the city and conducive to retail: (6) the intersection of 23rd Avenue and East Union Street, which is the closest to Capitol Hill, could end up being the prime pot district in town.

Needless to say, this is highly impractical.

The densest parts of the city are the locations where most people would actually want to buy marijuana, but these are the same places where marijuana stores will be prohibited. Considering

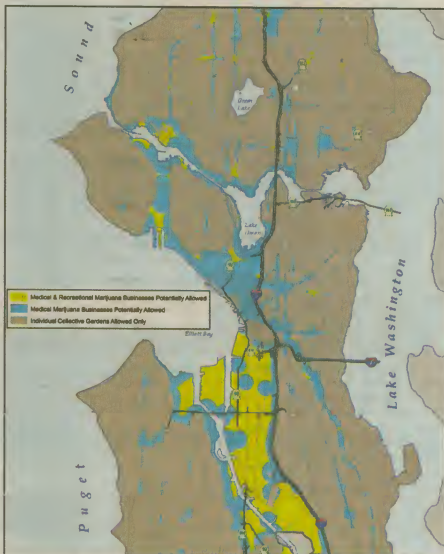
that the goal of I-502 was to undercut the black market with accessible legal pot, it's unfortunate that black-market pot dealers could remain way more accessible than the new legal stores.

However, there aren't any other great options. Representative Christopher Hurst (D-Enumclaw)

has proposed a bill that would adjust these boundaries and raise application fees for new pot businesses. Neither of his ideas are workable: Raising the cost of licenses would push small producers out of the market, and shrinking the 1,000-foot buffer zone around

schools and parks—sensible as that may sound—would invite the federal government to file a legal challenge against our pot laws. Which, obviously, is something we want to avoid. For now, at least, these are the pot districts we have in Seattle. The challenge will be making sure the city council doesn't restrict them further. ■

Pot shops may displace industrial tenants.



SEATTLE'S POT MAP The yellow dots show where marijuana retail shops can open.

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What Happens If the Feds Sue?

Some Parts of Our Pot Legalization Law May Be in Limbo, Other Parts Will Remain Intact

BY DOMINIC HOLDEN

There is a big "IF" hanging over many of the articles in this guide about Washington's marijuana legalization law. For example, we write about future pot taxes—*IF* a federal lawsuit doesn't prevent our legalization law from taking effect. We also write about where pot retail stores can open—*IF* the Feds don't get an injunction that freezes licenses from being issued.

(Just to be clear, we're not talking about the medical marijuana law passed 15 years ago. That law isn't at risk. It didn't change. It won't change. We're only talking about the law concerning recreational pot that passed last fall.)

This is the primary concern you'll hear: The US Department of Justice (DOJ) could claim in the next couple months that our new state law conflicts with the federal Controlled Substances Act, they could file a lawsuit in US District Court, and they could seek an injunction that freezes the state from carrying out the law while the lawsuit winds through the courts. The people who drafted Initiative 502 specifically wrote it to beat this sort of lawsuit: Agents of the state will never handle or sell marijuana, so it will be hard to prove we're breaking laws.

Representing us if this goes to court: state attorney general Bob Ferguson.

"My job will be to defend the will of the voters," Ferguson told me in a recent interview. He's already flown to DC to meet personally with US attorney general Eric Holder to dissuade him from challenging it. But still, preparing for the worst, Ferguson's got a passel of layers armed to the teeth with legal briefings for a lawsuit that he hopes never gets filed.

"I am doing everything I can to defend that law, and I intend to win," he said.

"I intend to win," says the state's attorney general.

If the DOJ does take action, they could employ a wide array of tactics. On one end of the spectrum, they could merely issue a statement saying that Washington must keep its legal pot inside state borders and pot businesses must follow strict rules or risk arrest. Or the Feds may question the state's right to collect tax revenue. If they take the most extreme tack, seeking an injunction, the state's law could come to a partial halt.

If that happens, nobody knows who will win the case. Nobody. But there are two guarantees: (1) Pot possession of up to one ounce will remain legal, because that part of the law is dictated entirely at the state level, not the federal level; and (2) we will get to watch a fantastic showdown that brings the fight over legal pot the same high profile as gay marriage. ■

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Where to Stash Your Cash?

State Will Need to Deposit Pot Taxes Somewhere

BY BEN LIVINGSTON

When state-licensed cannabis companies start selling sinsemilla later this year, perhaps the biggest conundrum for state regulators will be where to put all that marijuana money. Federal laws against money laundering forbid banks and other financial institutions from depositing dope dollars—a well-known problem in the pot world. Some entrepreneurs secure bank accounts through “white lies” and by omitting certain financial details, but still, the state’s medical cannabis industry is mostly cash-based.

“I’ve had my bank accounts pulled. I’ve had my credit-card privileges pulled,” says Dawn Darrington from CWC Gardens in Seattle, who estimates that at least half of cannabis businesses have no bank account. “Anyone who walks into a bank and says, ‘I’m going to disburse medical marijuana,’ is not going to get an account.”

Never mind the actual pot businesses—which are used to running cash-based enterprises. Where will the state government deposit our marijuana taxes?

State deposits run through Bank of America, according to state treasury spokesman Chris McGann, who says the agency isn’t experienced with large cash-based accounts. “We do have a vault, but it’s not really set up for storing cash. It’s mostly used right now to store bond documents.”

The state currently deposits pot sales tax, but those funds are commingled with many other deposits. How is Bank of America going to view state money earmarked for our Dedicated Marijuana Fund? According to bank spokesman Britney Sheehan, “If the proceeds can be directly tied to cannabis operations,

we would not bank it.”

So the state will face the same banking problem as dispensaries. Here are three possible solutions to our cash-stashing problem:

Federal Exemption: Assuming the Feds haven’t been planning a raid for the last four months, it seems quite plausible that the US attorney general is compiling a list of conflicting codes that must be corrected to legally allow these experiments to happen. The people may have flipped the bird to the Feds, but state regulators could politely ask the federal government to tweak banking rules to accommodate legalization laws in Washington and Colorado.

Bitcoin: Established in 2009, Bitcoin is a digital, peer-based currency; nearly 11 million Bitcoins currently trade at more than \$90 each—a billion dollar market. This is roughly the amount

the state’s Office of Financial Management predicted our pot market would generate each year. Bitcoin requires no bank approval, but the young currency’s exchange rates have been volatile, making it perhaps a risky alternative to centralized banking.

State Depository: A state bank requires millions of dollars in start-up capital, but a state depository requires only a large enough safe—like the one storing bond documents at the treasurer’s office. A pot-bank scheme might avoid federal regulation if it acts only as a safe-deposit box for the state’s cannabis cash—no transactions with other banks, no federal deposit insurance, etc.

Whatever route, the state will be frank with banks. “We’re not going to lie about where we think money is coming from,” says McGann. “That is not an option.” ■

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BY DAVID SCHMADER

Upon entering the medical cannabis collective Canna-Rx, you notice how different this dispensary seems from so many others. First, there's the location—in the heart of Fremont, in the type of retail space typically given over to yoga studios and clothing boutiques. (Bonus: free underground parking.) Then there's the interior design—which, amazingly, exists—with handmade wood-and-glass display cases topped with marble slabs over their tasteful lighting.

Look around and you'll find evidence of medical marijuana's grittier side—patients enter through a pair of intricately locked-and-key-coded doors (designed to foil hold-ups)—but once inside, you could be in a retail space devoted to artisanal, handcrafted jewelry.

Behind the counters buzz the marijuana sommeliers, lorded over by Shawn Coleri, the man who hatched the dream of Canna-Rx. At the center of this dream: medical marijuana “medibles,” made not with cannabis-infused butter (which can taste to some like rancid ass) but with hash oil, which is extracted not with the typical heavy solvents but with pure alcohol, a more time-consuming process resulting in a thick, dark, molasses-smelling syrup that packs a punch. Coleri and his friends soon began injecting their oil into a variety of products: cookies, lollipops,

tinctures, and, the reason for my visit, topical salves.

To understand the chasm between medical marijuana and getting stoned, there's no better tool than cannabis-infused salves. As I learned once again after smearing

Canna-Rx's mint-scented hash-oil salve on my aching lower back, topical MMJ is an absolutely lousy way to get high—simply put, it doesn't work—but it's a perfectly brilliant way to relieve muscle pain. This fact was confirmed by all those I shared my Canna-Rx samples with, from a colleague with chronic foot pain to a friend with “some weird back thing,” who praised the balm's speedy effectiveness at imparting physical relief while noting the absolute lack of anything close to a feeling of stoneness. (According to Coleri, his salves have worked wonders for folks with rheumatoid arthritis.)

In addition to benignly extracted hash oil and a “closed-loop system” of growing plants without pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides, Canna-Rx is devoted to one more thing: good strong dosages, aimed at the specific needs of regular MMJ users rather than high-seeking dabblers. “Eat no more than half and put the rest in the freezer,” said Scoleri as he handed me a hash-oil-infused brownie the size of an eight-track tape. “Come back soon.” ■



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Will Pot Ruin Your Manhood?

Two Women Investigate
This Myth and Other Bullshit

BY CIENNA MADRID AND ANNA MINARD

Smoking pot will kill your testosterone levels and make you sterile. The link between marijuana use and sterility is unproven, says Dr. Charles Arakaki, chief physician at the Universal Men's Clinic at Swedish Medical Center. He explains that most of the studies done on marijuana use and testosterone were executed in the 1970s, with mice. "The studies done more recently, in the 1990s, show that there's no effect on hormone levels," Dr. Arakaki explains. "They contradict previous studies."

I need flavored rolling papers in order to roll a perfect joint. Marijuana neophytes—and there are plenty of them in Washington State now—yearn to roll the perfect joint, as if that proves their newfound smoking prowess, and this task usually involves some fancy flavored rolling paper, because people who don't smoke pot like they put on shoes think it should be as stylized and weird as possible. These delightful little ducklings are wrong. Through trial and error, stoners at *Stranger* HQ have found over the years that Bible passages and pages ripped from antique dictionaries roll quite nicely and burn evenly. Here are the substitutes that won't work in a pinch: Post-it Notes, Yellow Pages, or selections of *The Stranger*, each of which will make you feel like you've just taken a bong rip from the tailpipe of a Hummer. So for a divine high, relax, rip your favorite passage out of Deuteronomy, maybe eat a ham and cheese sandwich to

prove you're an equal opportunity blasphemer, and just roll the fucking joint already.

Eating sugar will cut into my high. No.

Smoking weed could make me stupider in the long term. You may have heard about studies saying heavy cannabis use is associated with lower IQs later in life—it seems like a no-brainer (hardy-har). While some research has blamed pot for lowering IQs, Norwegian research economist Ole Rugeberg recently reexamined and debunked a big study of potheads in New Zealand that's been widely cited as scientific proof that teen pot smokers make dumber adults. So as long as you don't hit the bong right before taking an IQ test, you and your brain are going to be just fine. (Still, don't smoke pot till you're 18, kids.)

Coughing while smoking gets me higher. This popular theory, while borne out by experience for many people, is likely crap. Some say it's true because coughing expands your lungs, leaving more surface area to absorb THC, but you're also breathing in lots of fresh air and coughing out a lot of the smoke. Probably this old-stoner-wives' tale is around because taking a moment hit, which will get you higher, is more likely to make you cough.

If I smoke enough pot, I'll smoke myself straight n' sober. Don't be an idiot. ■

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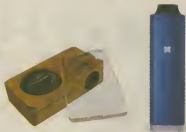
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Don't Smoke Pot

Vaporize It: Two Excellent Handheld Vaporizers

BY ANTHONY HECHT

The Pax by Ploom is a high-tech, portable aluminum vaporizer that costs \$250, and the Launch Box by Magic-Flight is a tiny wooden vaporizer that costs \$120 to \$150. Many people will stop reading right there, and that's a legitimate reaction. The simple act of smoking pot (or other aromatic herbal) has to involve lithium-ion batteries and a bedside charger now? You'd be forgiven if you dismissed the whole thing and rolled up a joint on the underside of a Frisbee, like your grandma used to do.

But if you have a little extra cash or you're worried about your health, vaporizers deserve a look. Vaporizing is supposedly less harmful than smoking. It heats the material without a flame, so volatile and mood-enhancing elements are vaporized without releasing any smoke. You exhale only a little cloud of vapor that dissipates quickly. And they're windproof! Have you ever tried to light a bowl on a chairlift? Impossible. Vaporizer? No problem. That feature alone is worth the price.

The Pax is notable for its anodized aluminum body (it comes in black, purple, or blue), rechargeable battery, LED status indicator, ease of use, and high price. Click it on, wait for the pulsing light to turn green, and go to town. Give it a

shake, and the light will tell you how much charge you have left. It's self-contained, one piece, neat and tidy. It has three temperature settings, but I have no idea which one to use. I leave it on the middle setting, which seems to work just fine.

The Launch Box has the complete opposite aesthetic. It's made of wood and clear acrylic, it's powered by AA

**They're windproof!
Have you ever
tried to light a bowl
on a chairlift?**

batteries with their labels stripped off, and it has an inspirational quote about love engraved on the bottom. The price varies depending on the kind of wood and whether you want some kind of symbol etched into the acrylic top (note: You don't). The big practical downsides to the Launch Box are that you have to carry at least one battery and it doesn't hold a charge as long as the Pax. And you have to be careful with those stripped batteries—if they touch metal in your pocket, they could short out and start heating up. Despite the drawbacks, the Launch Box has a warm, charming, homemade feel, it's significantly cheaper, and it gets the job done.

Whether you side with the techies or the hippies, portable vaporizers are the way to go, particularly in this new world of legalization we find ourselves in. If you won't have to cheese it when the fuzz comes rollin', you can afford to have a nice piece of gear. ■



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I'm Not Your Drug Mule

Things You Shouldn't Say
to a Medical Marijuana Patient

BY JOCELYN MACDONALD

Even before Initiative 502 passed, friends, and friends of friends, have asked me to pick up bud for them from dispensaries. Now, I would like to buy the world a toke. But I'm not a drug mule (unless it's Christmas and I'm traveling home to Mom's). And I'm not a drug dealer (anymore). Card-carrying friends like me—that is, people with authorizations for legal medical cannabis—may seem like your pot fairies, but before you ask them, ask yourself a few questions:

Why do you want them to buy you pot? Is it because you don't have a reliable connection? Is this person close to you? Would you listen to them talk about their dead grandpa/ex-girlfriend/failed college exam while they cry for an extended period of time? If not, don't ask them to commit a felony for you. Are you smoking a bunch of weed with your friend? Are they agreeing to buy drugs for you so that you will stop mooching?

If you still think it's worth asking, be discreet.

Do not leave a digital trail: Do not hit up your friend on Facebook; do not send them a text message about

pot. Sharing or trading in medical marijuana with nonpatients is illegal on the state and federal level. So do not talk openly about someone else's authorization—in front of friends or in a bar. If necessary, talk about flowers, Bruce Banner, broccoli. This is not just THC-induced paranoia: We live in an age of surveillance.

You should respect the fact that your friend is a patient. Don't assume that they smoke weed recreationally, even if they smoke with you while you are smoking recreationally.

Patients and recreational users alike should be able to know what they're buying—strains, THC

and cannabinoid content—and they should not have to go hang out in a basement watching *Two and a Half Men* reruns and getting their dealer high. They should be able to choose sativa or indica, munchies or giggles, pain management or sleeping aid. Your patient-friends feel you. We want you to have the best pot with the least hassle. But realize that the favor you're asking is not like grabbing you a Snickers as long as we're already at the 7-Eleven. ■



Asking patients to buy pot for you at a dispensary isn't like asking us to grab you a Snickers bar while we're already at the 7-Eleven.



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Cannabis Calendar

THINGS TO DO WITH POT IN 2013

WEDNESDAY 4/10

Northwest Cannabis Market

Seattle's only regular cannabis farmers' market is located in White Center and open every Wednesday to Sunday. Featuring the harvests—smokable, edible, what-have-you—of dozens of local farmers and vendors, the NWCM is free and open to all authorized Washington State medical marijuana patients. (If you find yourself in White Center with the munchies, proceed immediately to Zippy's Giant Burgers, then to Full Tilt Ice Cream, then jog home.) As of February, they also have a storefront on Rainier Avenue at College Street, open seven days a week. *Northwest Cannabis Market, 9640 16th Ave SW, nwccannabismarket.com, Wed-Sun 11 am-7 pm.*

FRIDAY 4/19

Aroma of Tacoma Cup Awards Party

It's a competitive expo of the Northwest's finest medical marijuana products. Categories include Best Edible, Best Topical, and Best Beverage. This year, you must contact the organizers directly in order to be a judge and participate in the Collective Crawl, but the awards party is open to all Washington medical marijuana patients and has a lounge/hash bar, live hiphop and reggae, and samples galore. *LTD Warehouse, 217 E 25th St, Tacoma, 253-761-7806, 4:20 pm-midnight, \$40.*

SATURDAY 4/20

Second Annual Dope Cup

Seattle's largest 4/20 party will determine once and for all (or until next year) WHICH STRAIN REIGNS SUPREME—and which ones win Highest THC, Highest CBD, and People's Choice. Anyone 21 and old-

er may enjoy the beer garden, food trucks, acrobats, glassblowing, and live DJs, but only those with original, authorized Washington medical marijuana papers can buy a judge's pass or make full use of the vape lounge, vendors, and flower room. *7 Point Studios, 1300 S Dearborn St, dopemagazineonline.com, 7 pm, \$35 general admission/\$100 for judge's pass, 21+.*

SUNDAY 4/21

Cannabis Farmers' Market Tacoma

Stroll among the harvests of the Northwest's best pot farmers at the Cannabis Farmers' Market, which is free and open to all legal Washington State medical marijuana patients. In addition to show-offy bud, CFM also features free samples, a patient lounge, and a DJ spinning wellness-enhancing tunes. *Cannabis Farmers' Markets/Sacred Plant Medicine Offices, 1912 Center St, Tacoma, cannabisfarmersmarkets.com, first and third Sundays 11 am-5 pm.*

THURSDAY 4/25

Dining Out for Life

Fact one: Medical marijuana makes an incalculable difference in the lives of many people living with HIV/AIDS. Fact two: Stoners love to eat. Celebrate both of these facts by Dining Out for Life, on the one day when more than 150 restaurants donate a portion of their sales to the fight against illness and hunger in those with HIV and AIDS. *See participating restaurants at diningoutforlife.com/seattle.*

THURSDAY 5/2

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cannabinoids in the system—come together at Cafe Nordo, the meta-theatrical restaurateurs who first came onto the scene in 2009 with their fictional chef Nordo Lefeszski and his prix-fixe performance *The Modern American Chicken*. Their newest show, *SMOKED!*, has a spaghetti-western theme: *Cafe Nordo, the Kitchen by Delicatus, 103 First Ave S, cafenordoco.com, through June 16.*

SUNDAY 5/5

Seattle Chocolate Salon

So. Much. Chocolate. Tastings of it, talks about it, demonstrations of its supernatural powers. *Bell Harbor International Conference Center, 2211 Alaskan Way, Pier 66, seattlechocolatesalon.com, 11 am-5 pm, \$20/\$10 children 6-12/free for children under 6.*

Mobile Food Rodeo

A ridiculous number of food trucks gather in a Fremont parking lot. Whatever you're jonesing for, it's here. *Burke Building Parking Lot, 3401 Evanston Ave N, 10 am-7 pm,*

WED-THURS 5/8-9

Bob's Burgers Live

Replicate the experience of watching Bob's Burgers stoned in your living room at the state-of-the-art Neptune Theater, where the stars of the great animated TV series about a family-run burger shop will perform segments from the show, for two nights only, May 8 and 9. Featuring H. Jon Benjamin, Eugene Mirman, Kristen Schaal, Dan Mintz, and John Roberts. *Neptune Theater, 1303 NE 45th St, stgpresents.org, 8 pm, \$25.*

SATURDAY 5/11

Cannabis Freedom March 2013

This year, the annual Freedom March doubles as a celebration, "showing the rest of the world how we do it in the Evergreen State." The rally begins in Volunteer Park with live music and speeches, and then proceeds down to Westlake Park for more live music and speeches. *Rally at Volunteer Park, 1247 15th Ave E, 11 am, march at 1 pm, rally at Westlake till 5 pm.*

THURS-SAT 5/16-18

Les Ballets Trockadero

This all-male dance company performs gender-queering ballet and modern dance, poking fun at ballet's stiff, traditional hierarchy and "achieving high comedy by incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents, and underlying incongruities of serious dance," according to the website. *Meany Hall, UW Campus, uwworldseries.org, 8 pm, \$51-\$55.*

WEDNESDAY 5/22

Paul Laffoley: Premonitions of the Bauharoque



Paul Laffoley makes layered, mandala-like paintings but also throws out big ideas. He attended Brown and Harvard and worked with Andy Warhol and on the World Trade Center. His best-known piece, *THE KALI-YUGA: THE END OF THE UNIVERSE AT 424,826 A.D. (The Cosmos Falls into the Chaos as the Shakti Oroboros Leads to the Elimination of All Value Systems by Spectrum Analysis)*, looks like the love child of the board game *Sorry* and a *Pokémon* card. This exhibition samples his output from 1965 to today. *Henry Art Gallery, 4100 15th Ave NE, henryart.org, 11 am-4 pm, through Sept 29.*

FRI-SUN 8/16-18

Seattle Hempfest

Three full days of bands, crowds, food, and the smell of burning rope. (Bonus if we're lucky: that sweet hippie who stands in the same place every year selling mushroom fudge.) *Myrtle Edwards Park, 3130 Alaskan Way, hempfest.org, \$10 suggested donation.*

Contrary to potheadular belief, not everything should be done while high on marijuana, including (but not limited to) driving, babysitting, voting, investing, performing surgery, and shopping at Costco.

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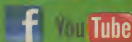
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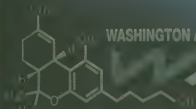
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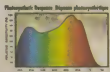


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